IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for facilitating the diagnosis of a patient for a cancer of epithelial origin comprising:

   a. obtaining a biological sample from the patient; and

   b. detecting the presence or absence of ADAM 12 in the biological sample, wherein the presence of ADAM 12 is indicative of the presence of cancer of epithelial origin.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, tissue, serum, urine, stool, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid, nipple aspirates, and supernatant from cell lysate.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said biological sample is urine

4. (ORIGINAL) A method for diagnosing cancer of epithelial origin in a patient comprising:

   a. measuring ADAM 12 levels present in a test sample obtained from the patient;

   b. comparing the level of ADAM 12 in the test sample with the level of ADAM 12 present in a control sample;

   wherein a higher level of ADAM 12 in the test sample as compared to the level of ADAM 12 in the control sample is indicative of cancer of epithelial origin.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, wherein said test sample and said control sample are selected from the group consisting of blood, tissue, serum, urine, stool, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid, nipple aspirates, and supernatant from cell lysate.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, wherein said test and control samples are urine.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method for prognostic evaluation of a patient suspected of having or having, cancer of epithelial origin comprising:

   a. measuring the level of ADAM 12 present in a test sample obtained from the patient;

b. comparing the level determined in step (a) to a level of ADAM 12 in a control sample; and

c. evaluating the prognosis of said patient based on the comparison of step (b), wherein a level of ADAM 12 in the test sample that is at least 3 fold greater than the level of ADAM 12 in a control sample indicates an aggressive form of cancer and therefore a poor prognosis.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7, wherein said test sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, tissue, serum, urine, stool, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid, nipple aspirates, and supernatant from cell lysate.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, 4, or 7, wherein the cancer of epithelial origin is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, gastrointestinal cancer, lip cancer, mouth cancer, esophageal cancer, small bowel cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, pancreas cancer, ovary cancer, cervical cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, prostate cancer, and renal cell carcinoma.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence or absence of ADAM 12 is detected using an antibody-based binding moiety which specifically binds ADAM 12.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of any of claims 1, 4, or 7, ~~claims 4-7~~, wherein the level of ADAM 12 is measured by measuring the level of ADAM 12 protein.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of ADAM 12 protein is measured by a method comprising the steps of:

a. contacting the test sample, or preparation thereof, with an antibody-based binding moiety which specifically binds ADAM 12 to form an antibody-ADAM 12 complex; and

b. detecting the presence of the complex, thereby measuring the level of ADAM 12 present.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~10 or~~ 12, wherein the antibody-based binding moiety is labeled with a detectable label.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, a hapten label, a fluorescent label, and an enzymatic label.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~10 or~~ 12, wherein the antibody-based binding moiety is an antibody.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 15, wherein the antibody is an monoclonal antibody.

17. (ORIGINAL) A kit for detecting ADAM 12 in a urine sample comprising a container for holding a urine sample, and at least one antibody that specifically binds ADAM 12.

18. (ORIGINAL) The kit of claim 17, wherein the kit comprises two antibodies that specifically bind to ADAM 12, one antibody is immobilized on a solid phase and one antibody is detectably labeled.

19. (ORIGINAL) The kit of claim 17, further comprising directions for use.